

DECLARATION OF FREEDOM OF NAVY, ARMY, FAR EAST VIEWS MADE BY BRIAND

Personal feelings should be permitted to operate against the satisfactory solution of the vast problems for which the entire world awaits. They do not, of course, concede the possibility of failure except as a remote contingency that cannot be anticipated. In meeting such an inevitable contingency they have made it clear to the foreign delegates that failure in any respect will not be traceable to this Government.

America in Difficult Role.

Personal asperities due to racial, temperamental and national differences are recognized as the most difficult of all qualities to reconcile in support of so momentous an undertaking as that which confronts the conference, and there is little question that the United States, acting in the role of father confessor and arbiter, finds itself in an unusual and perhaps, at times, disagreeable position. To date the American delegates have avoided pitfalls of any kind and they are determined to do so throughout the progress of the conference.

The representatives of Great Britain and France have entered into competition over the Far Eastern problem, although they are in agreement on general terms in expressing their willingness to assist in the rehabilitation of China, the acceptance of a genuine "open door" policy and the relinquishment of the extraterritorial privileges now enjoyed by them.

But the two countries are not in accord over the programme for the limitation of naval armaments. Premier Briand made this fact perfectly clear to-night in a statement to newspaper reporters. He said that France has had no building programme since 1912 and that its need was not curtailment but replacement and perhaps limited expansion. He expressed complete sympathy with the plan proposed by the United States which Lord Beatty and other spokesmen of the British navy and Admiral Kato and his Japanese associates desire to have modified for their respective special needs.

France Favors Submarines.

The French Premier further instanced the disapproval of his Government of the British plea for minimum submarine construction if not abandonment in building that type of war craft. M. Briand said he regarded submarines "as a necessary means of defence for weak countries," and expressed full concurrence of the suggestions contained in the American form put to the conference by Secretary Hughes.

The Premier in a general statement added that his country would not bring up the subject of the indebtedness of the foreign countries to the United States. He said that in his speech on Monday he would present facts and arguments he believed would induce the conference to approve of the French needs in the matter of land armaments.

Authorized spokesmen of the British delegation matched the French attitude on the Far Eastern question by calling attention to the fact that in 1902 Great Britain offered to surrender its extraterritorial rights in China if other nations would do likewise.

The committee considering Far Eastern and Pacific problems continued its work to-day, but without definite results or public announcements.

The Japanese delegation did not make any move to define its position on the proposal contained in the ten points offered by the Peking Government of China. The fact is that Japan, upon whom the official and unofficial eyes were focussed, did not contribute anything to discussions of Far Eastern problems.

Japan's Course in Doubt.

The only information regarding the probable course of Japan's representatives in meeting the issue raised by France was, in effect, that any suggestions the delegation may decide to offer will be withheld until the conference more clearly defines the programme covering that topic. The conference is expected to do so on Monday.

As the delegates approach the manifold issues involved in the Asiatic situation, the Anglo-Japanese alliance, which is not approved of by this country, assumes major importance. Well informed observers with a full appreciation of the reasons that influence American attitude toward the compact believe a clearer definition than has yet been provided will be requested from both Great Britain and Japan before the discussion of other Far Eastern problems has progressed to a definite stage.

Opposition to the Anglo-Japanese treaty is not confined to the United States. There is reason to believe that France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and the Peking delegation representing China, as well as the British dominions of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, will coincide with the view of the United States.

British representatives in the conference reflect a disinclination to discuss the alliance between Britain and Japan.

The Peking delegation looks to the United States to assume the initiative in bringing up the matter, and is deferring its own plan for agitating the subject until the United States has had an opportunity to move.

NAVY BASE BUILDING FALLS.

New London, Conn., Nov. 18.—A brick structure on the Thames River edge at the submarine base above this city fell into the water during last night. The building contained machinery used for charging the electric batteries of the submarines. Capt. F. D. Berrein, commandant of the base, expressed opinion that the loss would be \$50,000.

JAPAN NOT EAGER FOR BRITISH PACT

Leading Tokio Papers Would Not Object to Cancelling Alliance.

ALL WANT GUARANTY

Baron Sakamoto Says That Hughes Plan Asks Too Much of Japanese.

BIG WARSHIP LAUNCHED

Tokio Paper Urges Restriction of Aerial Development Having War Objective.

TOKIO, Nov. 18 (Associated Press).—Some of the leading Japanese newspapers would not look with disfavor upon the cancellation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, provided there are general assurances of a continuation of friendly relationship, according to many editorialists published to-day on the Far Eastern question. Comment on this phase of the Washington conference to-day began to overshadow discussion of the American proposal for the limitation of naval armaments. The *Nichi Nichi Shinbun* declared the Anglo-Japanese alliance had cut out its objectives and that if anything could be said in favor of its further maintenance this should take the form of a general guarantee for the furtherance of Anglo-Japanese friendship. This end could be better attained, the newspaper claimed, by some other means, especially if the alliance appeared to be calculated to give America any anxiety.

"If America and Great Britain really want to cancel the pact," the *Nichi Nichi* declared, "Japan, under the present circumstances, should see no necessity for insisting on its further maintenance."

Cautious View Prevails.

A spirit of caution has developed in Japan with the inclination to look for a possible advantage to the United States in its proposal for a ten year naval holiday and limitation of navies. Expressions favoring a more equal balance of power have become the conspicuous note in public utterances. The sacrifice of warships aggregating 450,000 tons by Japan would be equal to the scrapping of 1,500,000 tons by the United States, Japanese analysts declare, on the ground that in an emergency the United States could replace her lost tonnage within a third or even a fifth of the time required by Japan with her limited facilities.

It also is pointed out that the American proposals would leave the United States five capital ships constructed between 1914 and 1916, while, with the exception of the Nagato, Japan's would all be of the period prior to 1913. It is admitted that the Japanese navy would be superior to the American in speed through the elimination of battle cruisers, but the experts declare that in all else the plan would favor the United States. Some members of the Admiralty are credited with expressing the belief that the Japanese fleet should aggregate 66 per cent. of the American total.

Compensation for Cut.

Concessions by the United States in regard to Pacific fortifications as an offset to what is generally coming to be regarded as the unfair ratio of naval strength are suggested by Baron Toshiatsu Sakamoto, an influential member of the House of Peers, in an article in the *Asahi Shinbun*.

He declares that the ratio should be twelve battleships for Japan to eight for the United States instead of ten to eighteen. He says further that, under the Hughes plan, with Japan retaining only one of the superdreadnought type, the Nagato, against America's three, Japan's ratio would be reduced to approximately ten to twenty. A fairer balance, he argues, might be secured in a different direction, namely, the fortification of the Pacific, which he says is important to discuss together with the question of eliminating all naval bases.

Meanwhile the Kaga, the giant superdreadnought with a displacement of 39,900 tons, one of those destined to be scrapped under the Washington proposals, was launched this morning at Kobe in the presence of 30,000 persons. The ceremony was begun by the reading of an address from Admiral Kato, now in Washington, by Vice-Admiral Murakami. The *Hochi Shinbun* considers there has been a serious omission in the proposals, inasmuch as restriction of aerial possibilities is not touched upon. There has been a striking development in that department in America, says this newspaper, and it declares that the Americans attach greater importance to aerial supremacy than to dreadnoughts. It expresses the hope that the United States will propose equally drastic restrictions along these lines.

Open Door Versus Spheres.

As to the Far East and China in particular the *Jiji Shinbun* expressed the opinion that the American attitude was more for a stricter application of the "open door" in China than for the destruction of the spheres of influence hitherto established by some of the Powers.

The *Hochi Shinbun*, referring to the reported proposals of the Chinese delegates at Washington to publish the secret agreements previously concluded between China and the Powers, said: "It is true that some such agreements were concluded with Great Britain about Tibet and with Japan about military supplies during the late war, but most of them were intentionally published or else their contents leaked out, so that the Chinese suggestion would in no wise embarrass the Powers."

The *Yomiuri Shinbun*, in discussing the Shantung question, declared Japan had done everything possible and that there was little room for elaborate discussion of the question at Washington. The *Nichi Nichi* claimed it had learned that at the latest Cabinet meeting Japan had resolved to insist on her Shantung policy already defined.

STEED WOULD ALSO LIMIT ENTERTAINMENT AT CAPITAL

Editor of London 'Times' Sees Heavy Strain on Older Men and Marvels at Endurance Shown by Mr. Hughes.

Copyright, 1921, by United News. WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—"One suggestion that may appear whimsical, but which should be taken seriously by delegates is that arrangements ought to be made for limitation of social entertainments in Washington," says Wickham Steed, editor of the London Times. "The members of the conference," he continued, "are in danger of being overwhelmed by the traditional American hospitality, which puts a strain not only upon them but also upon their official hosts. The work of the conference is exacting enough to require all the time and all the strength of the delegates, many of whom are no longer young men. More than one foreign delegate has marvelled at the apparently inexhaustible energy of Mr. Hughes, who is in every sense the pivot of the conference. Besides directing its deliberations, he continues to manage the State Department and is indefatigable as a leader in social courtesies. Yet it is evident that an unbroken round of entertainments must diminish even his remarkable vitality. "It is therefore suggested that there should be a close time for delegates, socially, until their work is accomplished so that they may be able to devote all their energies to the successful handling of the difficulties which are bound to arise in this as in all other conferences. Foreign visitors feel certain that American hosts and hostesses will not misinterpret this suggestion, but will attribute it to the real solicitude, not to the abandonment of a design, for Mr. Hughes and for the other eminent delegates of the United States."

SHIDEHARA REPLIES TO CHINESE TO-DAY

Continued from First Page. possible exception of Italy, are directly interested in the Far East and in the idea of the abandonment of a design, for Mr. Hughes and for the other eminent delegates of the United States."

The Chinese have already declared themselves in on any international group which proposes to enforce peace in the Pacific and to dictate conditions which shall operate in China herself. That declaration is contained in Point 2 of the Chinese proposal, and according to Chinese advisers is aimed directly at both the Anglo-Japanese alliance and the Lansing-Ishii agreement. The importance attaching to the Lansing-Ishii agreement is already suggested by reports that have gone out of Washington within the last twenty-four hours interpreting Secretary Hughes's remarks to the conference in committee as accepting the Japanese interpretation of the Lansing-Ishii agreement. It can be said upon the best authority that Secretary Hughes has made no such admission, merely citing Japan's geographical position of advantage near China as an argument which there should be no objection to the open door. Point will be given to the Chinese interpretation of that agreement by the fact that former Secretary of State Lansing, one of the negotiators of the agreement, is now included among the advisers of the Chinese delegation.

Prince Tokugawa, President of the Japanese House of Peers, in a conference with the newspaper correspondents, let it be known that no definite course of action had been determined upon in regard to the Japanese desire that American fortifications in the Pacific be demolished. This is generally understood, will be included in the Japanese demands.

Prince Tokugawa said the Japanese delegation would issue a statement setting forth the position of the Japanese Government with respect to China and Far Eastern questions in general, but in advance of that decision, he declined to discuss details. The Japanese have no wish, however, that such a statement be regarded as a series of counter proposals to those of the Chinese Government submitted two days ago.

U. S. WILL DISPUTE CHANGE IN SHIP RATIO

Plain Talk Likely Over Japanese Demand.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (Associated Press).—Japan's request for an increase in the proportional strength of her navy may lead speedily to some plan to dispute the ratio of naval strength set forth in the council table of the Arms Conference.

The American delegation stands ready to dispute stubbornly any material change from the ratio set forth in the American plan. That ratio, it was emphasized by highest authorities to-day, reflects existing proportional strength and cannot be altered without upsetting a fundamental principle of the whole plan.

In effect, the American figures would give to Japan six fighting ships to every ten owned by the United States, and every ten owned by Great Britain. The Japanese have hinted, but never formally announced, that they want seven to ten. The naval experts of the United States really believe that five to ten is nearer the proper allotment. Great Britain has accepted the six to ten plan, but her spokesmen have been silent about the new Japanese proposals.

If it turns out that the "slightly greater" naval force suggested by Japan by Admiral Kato only amounts to the addition of one battle cruiser to the Japanese figures, then the emphatic objections of the American delegates may not be deemed necessary. But if the suggestion comprehends a real change in proportion it is declared on authority that a determined and real diplomatic struggle will result.

JAPAN'S BUSINESS MEN FAVOR ARMS LIMIT

Alleviation of Tax Burdens of Nation Is Seen.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (Associated Press).—Japanese business men see in limitation of armament a step toward realization of international peace as well as an alleviation of the tax burdens of the nation, according to a radio message received by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to-day from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Japan meeting at Osaka. The message said: "All Chambers of Commerce of Japan in convention at Osaka have the honor of cabling you the following resolution: 'We consider disarmament most urgent at present for the realization of international peace and the alleviation of the nation's burdens and we pray for success of Washington conference arriving at justice and equity.'"

In a letter transmitting this message to Secretary of State Hughes the United States Chamber of Commerce says: "We are making this message public feeling confident that it can only work for good and in support of the splendid programme which you have laid before the world."

BUREAU OF AERONAUTICS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—Creation of a bureau of civil aeronautics in the Department of Commerce is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Hanks, Republican (N. Y.). The measure provides for inspection and licensing of pilots and planes, establishment of air routes and airways and dissemination of weather reports for the benefit of pilots.

WANTS FRANCE LEFT ALONE IN ARMY PLAN

Briand Proposes to Appeal to American People in Speech on Monday.

NO HELP GUARANTEE

Premier Points to Menace and Says Forces Act as Check to War.

NEED FOR SUBMARINES

Stand of Nation on Three Issues Before Conference Made Plain in Statement.

By RALPH COURTNEY.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau. Washington, D. C., Nov. 18. The French Premier to-day made a full declaration of France's position in regard to all the problems before the Washington conference. He dealt with the three great questions—naval armaments, the Far East and the land forces of the world.

M. Briand said France's navy was not as strong as it should be, and that he did not believe in the abolition of the submarine.

The French Premier revealed the fact that already he had laid before the Far Eastern committee the ideas of France regarding affairs in the Pacific. He said France had reduced her army as much as she could and desired only to be left alone. Secretary Hughes has set aside Monday's public session of the conference for a declaration by M. Briand on land armaments.

"Monday," said M. Briand, "I shall not make a set speech. My task is not to make an oration, but to place facts before the conference. I do not know yet what I shall say and my speech will not exist before I make it at the session of the conference itself. I plan to stop every five minutes in order that what I have to say may be translated, and if this should, as has been suggested, spoil the effect, this cannot be helped."

Puts It Up to Americans.

"I propose, as regards land armaments, to appeal to the American people. I shall simply beg them to place themselves in the situation France is in at the present moment and to ask them what they would do. You live in a country which is easy to defend. Your naval forces only have to be met by those of other Powers that are friendly to you and you are therefore not menaced by an external danger. "France's position on land is altogether different. Russia to-day actually has an army of 1,500,000 men, and she is capable of raising a force of 20,000,000. She is hostile to us. Germany also has to be watched continually. If Germany would only change her nature it might be possible to limit our land forces. Until this is the case we can do very little but watch and wait."

"Experience has taught us that on every possible occasion the Germans try to repudiate the Versailles treaty. It is only the French army which prevents them from doing so. "If it were not for a strong French army war would have broken out three or four times since the armistice. The French army has been the policeman of Europe, which, without its existence, would today be in the throes of universal Bolshevism. "You may say that the Russian danger is remote and that the German danger is present. But just think. It was only yesterday, one might say, that Russia did attack us, and it was the French army which prevented her from overrunning Europe in company with the Germans. If the French army had not been strong on Germany's flank and prevented her from joining with the Russians Europe would be devastated to-day. "France has already greatly reduced her armies and keeps the forces she has under arms only because she needs them for defence. We have no militarist feelings. We are not aggressive and desire nothing but peace."

French Army Not Large.

"Perhaps some imagine it is amusing to have to keep up a large army. I assure you this is not so. It would be much better if we could use the same number of our army for other purposes. "We should be much better off if we could have this money for use, for instance, in our colonies or to improve our national equipment. "Unfortunately we are not in a position to do so. "The French army is in reality not large. If you compare our army now with the French army before the war you will see that we have already made great reductions. This comparison will show that our present army is more than as much reduced now, compared with our pre-war forces, as the armies of the world will be by the naval cut which is now before the arms conference. "Even now there are bills before the

French Parliament dealing with army reductions. These bills to decrease the number of troops are the initiative of the Government and show our desire to diminish our armed forces to the greatest possible extent. The French army organization is very complicated, and it would take me a long time to go into the various details affecting our compulsory service. Nevertheless, in my speech on Monday I shall try shortly to explain the new legislation which is before the French Parliament. "The money we spend on our army is money to assure our national existence. It is wrong to think that the danger no longer threatens us. To-day the French army is the guarantee of European stability. If conditions in Europe were stable, if Germany would no longer adopt the attitude she has shown toward the treaty we should ask nothing better than to carry a smaller burden of armaments."

"We are, however, asking nothing of other nations. Our demand is only to be left alone. There was a time when we were allowed to expect some other provision for our safety, but we cannot now depend on this. France is alone, and must, therefore, act without help from the outside."

An Ever Present Danger.

"It is all very well for people to say, 'Don't worry; there is no real danger, and if something happens we shall help you.' We know already how easy it might be for the necessary assistance to fail to be on hand in time to save us. However, some way is found of removing the necessity for our armaments. France asks nothing of other nations."

As regards interrelated debts, M. Briand remarked, incidentally, that this question was not on the agenda of the Washington conference, and that, presumably, it would not be brought up. France, at any rate, would not suggest it. "It would not be gracious of us to propose a discussion which is on the agenda of the conference," he said. "We were invited here on a definite programme and we cannot accept the invitation wishing to change it. That would not be an act of politeness on our part. France intends to pay her debts as soon as she can. These debts were contracted at a moment of crisis in the midst of a great war and therefore, though we intend to pay them, we have to say frankly that we are not in a position to do so at the present moment."

Turning then to naval matters the French Premier stated without hesitation that France did not share England's views in the matter of submarines and that France's present naval strength was not up to the mark which, for proper proportion of naval power would dictate.

"The submarine," said M. Briand, "is the weapon of the poor. It is not costly to build and is kept up without great expense. On this question of submarines I do not share the opinion of Mr. Balfour, and I regard the resolution which the British propose to be impossible to accept. We quite understand the views put forward by other countries, but France does not share them. France has to defend herself in three seas, and though she is less interested in capital ships she needs other craft for defensive purposes."

"The situation in the Pacific," said the French Premier, "is very confused and complicated. I have already made a statement before the Far Eastern committee. It will not be easy to settle all the questions, but as none of the Powers interested in the Pacific have any Imperialist or selfish aims it should not be difficult to arrive at an understanding."

"I expect that by the time I leave the conference will, in respect of all questions before it, have reached a point where all are agreed on matters of principle and that only the details will then have to be worked out. I am sorry I have to go back, but it was only with great difficulty that I was able to get away. I left France right in the middle of a parliamentary session and in the midst of the discussion of the budget. Many things have been postponed until my return, and even now I shall find a great accumulation of things to attend to."

M. Briand announced that his speech on land armaments was definitely fixed for Monday morning. Marshal Foch will return to Washington and will be present at the time M. Briand makes his declaration on the French army.

ENGLISH REVIEWS

EULOGIZE PARLEY 'Spectator' Says Japan Will Ask Compensation for Naval Holiday.

LONDON, Nov. 18 (Associated Press).—Almost without exception the London weekly reviews, which often reflect authoritative opinion, eulogize the Washington conference, and especially the Hughes's proposals for a naval holiday. Referring to Japan's objections to the proposals, the *Spectator* thinks that this will constitute the crux of the whole conference, and says "If Japan agrees to a naval holiday, which we must admit, will maintain her relative naval inferiority to Great Britain and America, she is certain to ask to be compensated for giving up what she believes to be a good chance of securing command of the seas."

The *Spectator* says Japan, if she is frank, will say that her navy was not built for self defence, but in order to secure her rights in the Far East and on the Asiatic mainland, which she considers as hers by virtue of her military and naval prowess, her growing population and expanding trade. The periodical considers that Japan must be given reasonable satisfaction, "but we must also make clear to her that what we want to bring to the world is peace and not a new type of sword."

The *Saturday Review* thinks sober reason is required to judge the American plan for limitation of armaments, and says: "Peculiar conditions will be created by the proposal that the end of ten years two British and six American ships will be obsolete. The American six may be replaced, but the British two may not until the British tonnage shall have fallen below 500,000. The control of the sea would thus pass to the United States."

"Seriously," the *Review* asks, "is this a time to play tricks with our own ships, to throw thousands out of work and also to prevent the proper training of our personnel. . . . It is with facts and not aspirations that we have to deal." The *Review* says that Mr. Hughes frankly adopted parliamentary methods "against babbling platitudes and secrecy which prevailed at Paris," and considers that he was the only statesman of the world at large, and especially in England, it believes that instead of first reducing armaments the question of Far Eastern policy should have been settled.

The *New Statesman* also emphasizes the change from the diplomacy of the Paris peace conference—where, it says, "Wilson was first apoplexiated and then outwitted"—to the open diplomacy at Washington, where "Hughes put all his cards on the table." The *Statesman* expresses hope that the British reservation regarding the slow and continuous replacement of capital ships will not be pressed, "for obviously it strikes at the root of the American scheme. We want to get rid of competition, not to restrict it."

After remarking that Mr. Hughes's proposals are a reaction to a larger scale of the suggestion for a naval holiday which Winston Churchill made to Germany a decade ago, the *Outlook* says: "America after sulking in her tent for two years has come forth again when the tide of fate seemed to be running strong against humanity, and her first effort has given renewed hope to a despairing world. America has the international mind, and only an international mind can save us."

JAPAN SUPPORTS CHINA'S INTEGRITY

Wants Guaranty Affirming Doctrine of Equal Opportunity for All.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (Associated Press).—Japan's position on China's proposals is being authoritatively outlined this way:

Japan would like to see the conference adopt a set of principles which, if guaranteeing Japan's "right of existence," would generally and especially insure for China her territorial and, in so far as possible, her complete administrative integrity. At the same time these principles could affirm the doctrine of equal opportunity for all.

Japan for the moment has no broad programme to apply to China, believing that if she sought to impose a broad platform it would lay her open to suspicion as possibly concealing some hidden purpose. As suggestions arise Japan will explain her own views, which include a well defined limit concerning China's claims for an opportunity to register disapproval, should she so desire.

As Japan and China are members of the League of Nations and have subscribed to making public all treaties, she is ready to refrain from secret treaties, but doubts the practicability of having China participate in new treaties concerning that country. Japan, however, is agreeable to submitting conclusions to China for an opportunity to register disapproval, should she so desire.

Japan would subscribe to a declaration for the neutrality of China, but would point out that during the Russo-Japanese war, owing to territorial and geographical conditions, both Russia and Japan were obliged to combat on Chinese territory; and that it might be necessary to traverse her soil again. Japan, they say, will not intervene in China, but expects other Powers not to seek to dominate that country. Disorder and disorganization in China, they say, means more to Japan than revolt in Cuba means to the United States, as China holds within her borders the lives and property of several million Japanese and is the chief source of Japan's raw materials.

Ice Prolongs Life

DOCTOR HOAGLAND, expert insurance statistician, says human life has been lengthened 4 years in the last 25 years. Typhoid, malaria and cholera are gradually losing their hold. Ice is a large contributor to lengthening life.—REPERIODICAL.

It is significant that the lengthening of human life has kept pace with the growth of the Ice Industry. And it is gratifying to note that the education of the public to the value of ice in keeping the bacteria count low in milk and other foods is causing many dread diseases "to lose their hold." 473 hospitals in the United States are equipped with their own ice making plants.

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